

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 002609

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/29/2015

TAGS: PHUM PGOV SN

SUBJECT: POLICE CONTINUE TO HARASS INDEPENDENT FILM MAKER

REF: SINGAPORE 1178

Classified By: EP Counselor Laurent Charbonnet, Reasons 1.4(b)(d)

1. (SBU) The Singapore Police continue to harass independent film maker Martyn See, who made a 26 minute documentary on opposition politician Dr. Chee Soon Juan (Reftel). Under government pressure, See was forced to withdraw his "Singapore Rebel" film from the Singapore International Film Festival in March. The GOS had informed the festival organizers that "Singapore Rebel" was a "party political film" and in violation of the 1998 Film Act. Although he has complied with the GOS demand, the police continue to question See about his film.

2. (SBU) On May 16 and August 25, Police Assistant Superintendent Chan Peng Kuang interrogated See at the Police Cantonment Complex, according to See. The latter round lasted about three hours and included questions unrelated to the making of the movie, such as his views on the media. See was then ordered to surrender by August 29 his tapes of the film, courier invoices (from shipping copies of the film to the New Zealand Human Rights Film Festival and the Amnesty International USA Film Festival in May), as well as the video camera he used to shoot the film. The items would only be returned after "completion of the case." See turned them over to police on August 29.

3. (C) See has not been charged with any offense and the police did not inform him of any possible charges after he asked. He believes the on-going police investigation stems from his decision to send the film overseas to be exhibited in New Zealand and the United States. He also told poloff that police questions about his political activities and contacts with Dr. Chee made it "seem like associating with Chee was a criminal offense."

4. (C) Comment: If the GOS files criminal charges against See, we will need to speak out publicly against it. For now, we will raise the issue privately with senior GOS officials. On August 29, the Ambassador discussed the See case with Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts Permanent Secretary Tan Chin Nam, who professed ignorance of police motives. The Ambassador will also raise it with Foreign Minister George Yeo in a previously scheduled meeting on August 31. End Comment.

5. (U) Martyn See runs his own internet blog, detailing his activities:

<http://singaporerebel.blogspot.com/>

A trailer for the film can be viewed on the internet at:

<http://www.archive.org/details/SingaporeRebel> Trailer

The entire film can be viewed at:

<http://www.archive.org/details/godboxone>  
LAVIN